

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/973,878

Examiner

Jerry A Lorengo

Applicant(s)

SUMIDA ET AL.

Art Unit

1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments and argumnets filed 04/01/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-21 and 35.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 09 January 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

(1)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-21 and 35 have been found to be allowable over the prior art of record.

(2)

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Connection member suitable for the serial connection of carrier tapes and film strips, such as taught by U.S. Patent Nos. 6,428,888 to Kato; 5,643,401 to Schulze-Kahlayss et al.; 4,247,582 to Hanke; 4,146,661 to Grandel et al.; 4,041,201 to Wurker; 3,733,240 to Hanke; 3,475,263 to Kapilow et al.; and 2,969,106 to Reibel et al., are known in the art. Schulze-Kahlayss et al., for example, disclose one connecting member comprising: A base film; a reference band (having a series of knobs) substantially fixed on the base film; a bonding tape adhering on the base film 10; and wherein a straight reference line is provided adjacent the reference band close to the bonding tape. None of the prior art of record, however, specifically teach or suggest the connection member set forth in applicant claims 1 and 11 wherein a straight reference face is provided by the reference band which confronts the bonding tape.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

(3)

Response to Amendments and Arguments

The amendments and arguments filed April 1, 2004 are acknowledged. In response to the amendments to applicant claims 1 and 11 and the cancellation of non-elected claims 22-34, claims 1-21 and 35 have been passed to issue as set forth and explained in sections (1) and (2), above. This action is specifically in response to the amendments to applicant claims 1 and 11 and the arguments set forth on pages 7 and 8 of the applicant's Remarks section wherein it is persuasively argues that the prior art of record does not teach or suggest a raised portion as a reference face on the reference band in the invention of Schulze-Kahlayss et al. that would form an edge or face, these terms normally requiring depth as opposed to a straight line.

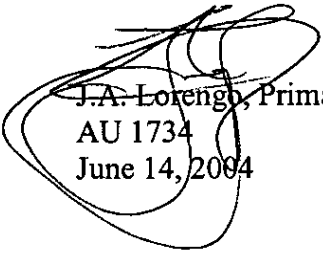
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(4)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerry A Lorengo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1233. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (571) 272-1226. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



J.A. Lorengo, Primary Examiner
AU 1734
June 14, 2004